



GAIL FARBER, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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February 24, 2014

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE

WM-0

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber  
Director of Public Works

### UNINCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES QUARTERLY STORMWATER COMPLIANCE REPORT – JANUARY 2014

In accordance with the Board's request at the March 12, 2013, Public Hearing, below you will find the quarterly report on (1) the status of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board) implementation and enforcement of the Los Angeles County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (MS4 Permit) and (2) the status of stormwater compliance in the unincorporated areas, including key projects, budget expenditures, and budget forecasting.

#### **Regional Board's Implementation and Enforcement of the MS4 Permit**

##### Education and Outreach

The new MS4 Permit became effective on December 28, 2012. There are 86 Permittees associated with the new Permit, which include the County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and 84 cities (excluding the Cities of Avalon, Lancaster, Long Beach, and Palmdale). Since the effective date of the Permit, the Regional Board conducted several meetings and information sessions to educate Permittees on Permit requirements. In November 2013 the Regional Board held a workshop to discuss the Low-Impact Development and Green Street provisions in the Permit.

##### Enforcement

To date, the Regional Board has taken no enforcement actions related to the newly adopted 2012 MS4 Permit.

## **Stormwater Compliance in Unincorporated Areas**

### Status of Key Projects/Programs

#### *Collaborative Watershed Planning*

As directed by the Board in June 2013, the County submitted Letters of Intent to the Regional Board notifying it of the County's intent to collaborate in 12 of the 18 watershed groups that were formed to develop Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs (CIMPs), Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (EWMPs), and Watershed Management Programs (WMPs). Sixty-nine cities are also participating in these 12 groups (see Attachment A).

The watershed groups are currently in various stages of development of the collaborative plans, which are due to the Regional Board by the dates shown below:

- CIMPs – June 28, 2014
- WMPs – June 28, 2014
- EWMPs – June 28, 2015

In accordance with the Permit, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been meeting since July 24, 2013. The TAC was established to ensure a transparent planning process and provide an opportunity for meaningful stakeholder input throughout the development of the collaborative watershed-based planning documents (CIMPs, EWMPs, and WMPs). The TAC's primary focus has been establishing guidelines for all Permittees to follow in ensuring that all projects and programs proposed in the planning documents under development by the watershed groups meet the established water quality objectives in the Permit. City and County staff, representative nongovernmental organizations, staff from the Regional Board, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are all participating members of the TAC.

#### *Projects with Significant Water Quality Benefit*

As part of the notifications of intent that were submitted in June 2013, the County committed to the completion of three projects (see Attachment B) that would benefit water quality:

- Avocado Heights Multiuse Trail Project – This project proposes to construct multiuse trails to provide a safer route for equestrian, bicycle, and pedestrian users in the unincorporated area of Avocado Heights. Approximately 2,300 feet of the multiuse trail will be constructed with decomposed granite and an

infiltration swale will be constructed immediately adjacent to San Jose Creek to infiltrate runoff from the trail.

- Marina del Rey Parking Lots 5 and 7 Stormwater Best Management Practices Project – The project proposes to treat stormwater runoff from the County Marina del Rey Parking Lots 5 and 7 using water quality enhancement Best Management Practices such as bioswales and bioretention.
- Green Street and Brandon Street Road Improvement Project – This project proposes to reconstruct about half a mile of roadway on two streets in the unincorporated area of East Pasadena. The project will recharge groundwater through permeable pavers, bioretention planters, sediment filtration catch basins, and an underground infiltration basin and prevent pollutants from entering the Los Angeles River.

All projects are on schedule for completion before the Permit-mandated date of June 2015.

#### *Low-Impact Development Ordinance*

As a condition of pursuing a collaborative watershed planning compliance alternative, the County is required to update its existing Low-Impact Development Ordinance, previously adopted by the Board in November 2008, to conform to the new MS4 Permit requirements. The Board approved the update to the Ordinance in November 2013, and it has been submitted to the Regional Board.

#### *Green Streets Policy*

Another condition of the current Permit is the development of a Green Streets Policy. Public Works has responded to the Regional Board's comments on the June 2013 draft policy and is awaiting formal approval.

#### *Annual Reporting*

In accordance with the 2012 Permit, Public Works submitted an Annual Report to the Regional Board detailing its compliance efforts from July 2012 to June 2013. The report summarizes the status of programs and projects implemented to comply with the Permit and can be down loaded at:

<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/NPDESRSA/AnnualReport/index.cfm>

### Budget Expenditures and Forecast

Table 1 below shows the Fiscal Year 2013-14 program budget and the recommended Net County Cost budget for this program for Fiscal Year 2014-15. As shown, Public Works has requested an additional \$3,600,000 (\$2,200,000 plus \$1,400,000) for Fiscal Year 2014-15, which will be considered by the Board in April 2014. With regard to staffing, Public Works has filled 21 of the 25 positions originally approved for the program. In September 2013 the Chief Executive Office approved an additional Management Fellow position for the stormwater program. Candidate interviews are currently being conducted and are expected to be completed this month.

Table 1. Unincorporated County Stormwater and Urban Runoff Quality Program Budget Forecast

<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2013-14</b>	<b>FY2014-15</b>
Baseline	\$10,100,000	\$10,100,000
Additional Ongoing	\$0	\$2,200,000
Additional One-Time	\$3,400,000	\$1,400,000
Capital Projects	\$9,900,000	\$0
Total	\$23,400,000	\$13,700,000

### Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination

Over the last three months, Public Works has continued working extensively with other Permittees and stakeholders to initiate compliance efforts and establish watershed groups for consistency in the region. In an effort to obtain insight into the needs of the communities surrounding possible water quality improvement projects, watershed groups have begun planning stakeholder workshops for residents, businesses, and nongovernmental agencies to explain the planning process and solicit input for projects and programs. Workshops will be held over the next year during development of the watershed plans.

Public Works has also continued the following outreach efforts with other Permittees:

- Attended meetings with the 12 watershed groups to prepare plans for CIMPs, EWMPs, and WMPs.
- Hosted meetings with representatives from all of the collaborative groups.
- Presented monthly updates to the Regional Board members on the status of the watershed groups and the progress of Permit implementation.

In addition, Public Works is currently interviewing County Management Fellows to assist in outreach efforts. Interviews are anticipated to be completed in February 2014.

#### Significant Upcoming Regulations

On November 5, 2013, the Regional Board released a Notice of Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on the Marina del Rey Harbor Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Toxic Pollutants. In its notice, the Regional Board proposed to modify the TMDL to include the following: (1) a requirement to reduce or eliminate the use of copper-based boat hull paints by 85 percent no later than 2024 and (2) a requirement to remediate contaminated sediment in the basins of the marina by 2029. These requirements could have significant impacts on the marina. Public Works, in coordination with the Department of Beaches and Harbors and County Counsel, submitted comments to the Regional Board on January 15, 2014. The Regional Board approved the proposed modifications to the TMDL at a hearing on February 6, 2014. Public Works, Beaches and Harbors, and County Counsel are evaluating possible options in moving forward. Beaches and Harbors will be reporting back to the Board of Supervisors on this issue.

ARG:ba

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Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)  
Executive Office



## Attachment A

### Summary of Watershed Groups

Group Name		Cities/Permittees Involved	SD
1	Upper Santa Clara River Watershed	Santa Clara, County, LACFCD	5
2	Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Group	Altamira, Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Hidden Hills, La Canada Flintridge, Los Angeles, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, Temple City, County, San Fernando, LACFCD	1,2,3,5
3	Los Angeles River Upper Reach 2 Sub Watershed	Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Maywood, Huntington Park, Vernon, LACFCD	1
4	Lower Los Angeles River Watershed	Downey, Long Beach, Lynwood, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Signal Hill, South Gate, LACFCD	1,2,4
5	Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group	Arcadia, Azusa, Bradbury, Duarte, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, County, LACFCD	1,5
6	Upper San Gabriel River	Baldwin Park, Covina, Glendora, Industry, La Puente, County, LACFCD	1,4,5
7	East San Gabriel Valley Watershed Management Area	Claremont, La Verne, Pomona, San Dimas	1,5
8	Lower San Gabriel River	Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Diamond Bar, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, LACFCD	4
9	Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Group	Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Paramount, Signal Hill, LACFCD	4
10	Malibu Creek Watershed Group	Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village, County, LACFCD	3
11	Marina del Rey	Culver City, Los Angeles, County, LACFCD	2,3,4
12	North Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watersheds	Malibu, County, LACFCD	3
13	Santa Monica Bay Jurisdictions 2 & 3	El Segundo, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, County, LACFCD	3,4
14	Beach Cities Watershed Management Group	Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, LACFCD	4
15	Peninsula EWMMP Agencies	Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates, County, LACFCD	4
16	Ballona Creek	Beverly Hills, Culver City, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, County, LACFCD	2,3,4
17	Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Area Group	El Segundo, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Los Angeles, County, LACFCD	2,4
18	Alamitos Bay/Los Cerritos Channel Group	County, LACFCD	4
19	Santa Monica Bay Jurisdiction 7	Los Angeles, LACFCD	4

## Enhanced Watershed Groups Map (with County 30-Month EWMP Projects)

